

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
30 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 94102 557 - 3686

*elections -- Calif*

*Bonds -- "*

*Sewage disposal -- Calif*

April 26, 1974

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL  
STUDIES LIBRARY

APR 29 1974

TO: All Commissioners and Alternates  
FROM: Charles R. Roberts, Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT: \$250 MILLION CLEAN WATER BOND ISSUE, JUNE 4, 1974, PRIMARY BALLOT

Recent events associated with the City employees strike in San Francisco have dramatized the problems created by the use of the Bay for regional sewage disposal. But the problems have existed for some time, and all communities that discharge their sewage into the Bay contribute to some extent. Indeed, nearly 480,000,000 gallons of sewage in various stages of treatment pours into the Bay on an average day.

Though much progress has been made in cleaning up the water of the Bay, much more needs to be done. But the job will be expensive. It is estimated that over the next four years, the Bay Area will need to spend nearly \$750,000,000 to meet Federal Water Quality Control Act standards and the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The cost of constructing the necessary sewage treatment facilities will be shared by local, state and federal governments. However, the federal share, 75 per cent of the eligible costs, must be matched with either local, or local and state money. In the past, the state share of improving sewage treatment facilities has been met out of the proceeds of a \$250,000,000 bond issue passed in 1970. However, the proceeds of this bond issue will be exhausted during the current calendar year, and late in 1973, the State Senate and the State Assembly unanimously voted to place a similar bond issue on the June 4, 1974, primary ballot. This measure, which will appear as Proposition 2, would provide an additional \$250,000,000 of state money to finance the cost of improving sewage treatment facilities. The Bay Area's share of this total could be as much as \$100,000,000.

Should Proposition 2 fail, local governments would have to pay the entire non-federal share--25 per cent--of the cost of meeting higher water quality control standards. Passage of the bond issue, on the other hand, would reduce the local share to 12-1/2 per cent. Because of the already-existing heavy demands on the tax resources of local government, the imposition of the additional costs that would generate if the bond issue doesn't pass could delay the design and construction of needed facilities.

Enclosed for your information is a leaflet from the State Water Resources Control Board and the official ballot argument in favor of the bond issue. No argument in opposition was filed with the Secretary of State.

#### Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt a motion supporting passage of Proposition 2, the Clean Water Bond Issue.

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL  
STUDIES LIBRARY

JUN - 6 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

78 03943



## **\$250 MILLION CLEAN WATER BOND ISSUE SET FOR 1974 PRIMARY BALLOT**

California voters will be asked to commit another \$250 million in Clean Water Bonds at the June, 1974 primary election to continue the wastewater facilities construction program that will clean up a major source of water pollution — domestic sewage.

The 1974 bond election is authorized by Assembly Bill 161 (McCarthy-San Francisco) which passed both the Assembly and Senate unanimously. Governor Reagan signed it October 2, 1973.

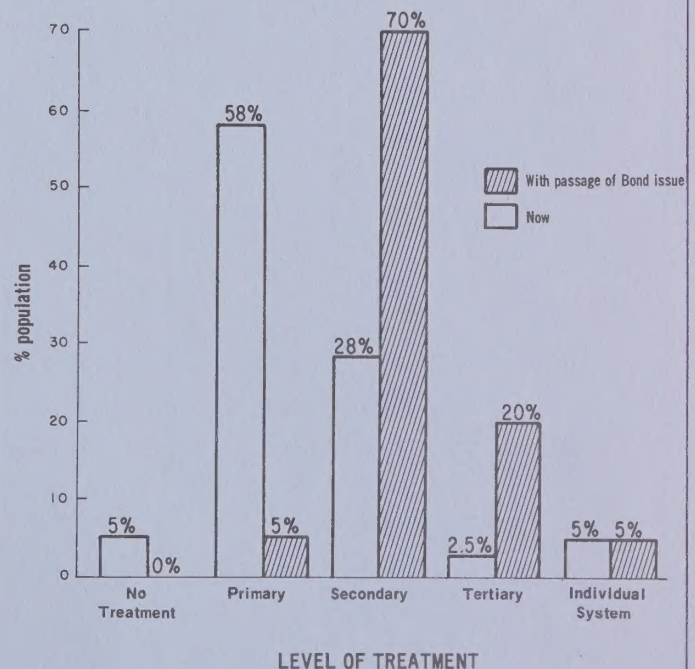
The bond issue will pay for the state share of the multi-billion dollar Clean Water Grant program. California voters approved the first \$250 million installment in 1970 with an overwhelming 76 percent of the vote.

"That money will run out in late 1974, and is far short of what is needed to meet federal and state standards for cleaning up wastewater," said Win Adams, board chairman. He noted that if the federal funds currently impounded are released, the money remaining from the 1970 bond issue would be used up shortly.

"In order to protect water quality, the goal is to provide secondary treatment of all domestic wastewater," said Win Adams. "Without state funding, the cost to local communities would double." He pointed to a recently completed needs survey that shows that presently over \$3 billion is needed to meet this goal in California.

(Continued over)

### **CLEAN WATER GRANT PROGRAM**



WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT of the construction program? The chart above shows that if the bond issue is passed and matched with federal funds, almost 90 percent of the population will be served by sewage treatment plants that meet the federal standard of secondary treatment or better. Presently only 30 percent of the population is served by such facilities.



If the bond issue is passed and matched with federal funds it will generate funding for \$2 billion in facilities. About \$1 billion is currently available in federal funds and money remaining from the 1970 Bond Act.

About 2.5 billion gallons of sewage are discharged daily in California. Before treatment, the sewage has about 2.75 thousand tons of suspended solids, but this amount would be cut by 90 percent if facilities to be funded by the bond issue are built. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), which affects the ability of water to support life, would be cut by at least 85 percent. Toxic materials would be significantly reduced, as would bacteria counts.

The Clean Water Grant program is a federal, state and local governmental effort to upgrade the treatment of domestic sewage. Federal share of the program is 75 percent, with states and local governments sharing the remaining cost. The money goes for sewage treatment facilities, outfalls, and some interceptor sewers. Money is not generally spent on sewage collection systems.

The federal government has committed \$18 billion nationally to the program, although the impoundment of funds has held up \$6 billion in spending. \$1.78 billion of the total money is earmarked for California.

"The grants program is a one-time effort to upgrade sewage treatment across the board and bring it up to acceptable levels," said Win Adams. "In order to receive a grant, a community must have a revenue plan for financing future expansion or increased levels of treatment." He said the purpose of the revenue program is to put communities on a self-sustaining basis.

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814

W. W. ADAMS, Chairman  
RONALD B. ROBIE, Vice Chairman  
ROY E. DODSON  
MRS. CARL H. (JEAN) AUER  
W. DON MAUGHAN  
BILL B. DENDY  
Executive Officer



OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA BALLOT ARGUMENT  
CLEAN WATER BOND ACT OF 1974

IN FAVOR:

ASSEMBLY BILL 161

*Cleaning up California's polluted bays, rivers and other waterways really began in 1970 with voter approval of a \$250 million bond issue to construct public wastewater treatment facilities. That money has been used effectively throughout California to reduce water pollution, but it will run out later this year.*

*This second \$250 million bond issue is needed to help finish the fight against water pollution. This State money, plus an equal local government share, will bring to California federal grants of \$1.5 billion.*

*The massive facilities needed to reduce sewerage pollution of California waterways are expensive. Without this State bond issue and substantial federal help, a crushing tax burden could fall upon local government—and that means on local property taxpayers!*

*Economically, recreationally and visually, our State's waterways are vital to the lives of all Californians. A vote for this bond issue is certain to better the quality of life for all of us. Business, labor and conservationist leaders agree that a "yes" vote for this bond issue will mean many jobs and an improved environment.*

*A partial listing of those supporting this proposition follows:*

Governor Ronald Reagan

County Supervisors Association  
of California

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

California Manufacturers Association

California State Employees Ass'n.

California League of Conservation  
Voters

League of Women Voters of California

Democratic State Central Committee

California Municipal Utilities Ass'n.

Association of California Water  
Agencies

California State Legislature

League of California Cities

California Chamber of Commerce

California Teamsters Legislative Council

California Council for Environmental and  
Economic Balance

Sierra Club

Planning and Conservation League

Republican State Central Committee

State Building and Construction Trades

Council of California

California Association of Sanitation Agencies

California Wildlife Federation

Signed: (Leo T. McCarthy, Assemblyman)

(Ken Mac Donald, Assemblyman)

(Kenneth L. Maddy, Assemblyman)

OPPOSED:

No opposition argument was filed with the Secretary of State



U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES



C123306424

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL  
STUDIES LIBRARY

JUN - 6 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA